

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-21 previously canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

22. (Presently Amended) An automated telephony interface for use with a source telecommunications device configured to initiate a telecommunications session, comprising:

a scanner; and

a session initiator, coupled to said scanner, that parses information read by said scanner, extracts a telephone number from said information, and determines whether to use said telephone number to initiate faxing or phoning based on at least one of an orientation of said information read by said scanner and a status of said source telecommunications device, said session initiator further transmitting [and transmits] a signal containing said telephone number to said source telecommunications device thereby initiating a telecommunications session.

23. (Presently Amended) The interface as recited in Claim 22 wherein said session initiator determines whether to use said telephone number to initiate faxing or phoning based further on a user-input manually entered into said scanner or said session initiator.

24. (Previously Added) The interface as recited in Claim 23 further including a user-operable switch coupled to said scanner or said session initiator for receiving said user-input.

25. (Presently Amended) The interface as recited in Claim 22 wherein said session initiator determines whether to use said telephone number to initiate faxing or phoning based further on a user-input manually entered into said source telecommunications device.

C. 26. (Presently Amended) The interface as recited in Claim 22 wherein said ~~session initiator determines whether to use said telephone number to initiate faxing or phoning based on a direction a calling card is swiped by said scanner~~ orientation is selected from a first orientation in which said information is read by said scanner in a first direction along a card and a second orientation in which said information is read by said scanner in a second direction along said card.

27. (Presently Amended) The interface as recited in Claim 22 wherein said ~~session initiator determines whether to use said telephone number to initiate faxing or phoning based a ready status of said telecommunications device~~ status of said source telecommunications device is a ready status of a source telephone.

28. (Presently Added) The interface as recited in Claim 22 wherein said status of said source telecommunications device is a ready status of a source facsimile device.

C² 29. (Presently Added) A method of initiating a telecommunications session at a source telecommunications device, comprising:

scanning information on a card with a scanner;

parsing said information with a session initiator coupled to said scanner;

extracting a telephone number from said information with said session initiator;

determining with said session initiator whether to use said telephone number to initiate faxing or phoning based on at least one of an orientation of said information read by said scanner and a status of said source telecommunications device; and

initiating a telecommunications session by transmitting a signal containing said telephone number from said session initiator to said source telecommunications device.

30. (Presently Added) The method as recited in Claim 29 wherein said determining is further based on a user-input manually entered into said scanner.

31. (Presently Added) The method as recited in Claim 30 wherein said determining includes receiving said user-input from a user-operable switch coupled to said scanner.

32. (Presently Added) The method as recited in Claim 29 wherein said determining is further based on a user-input manually entered into said session initiator.

33. (Presently Added) The method as recited in Claim 32 wherein said determining includes receiving said user-input from a user-operable switch coupled to said session initiator.

34. (Presently Added) The method as recited in Claim 29 wherein said determining is further based on a user-input manually entered into said source telecommunications device.

35. (Presently Added) The method as recited in Claim 34 wherein said determining includes receiving said user-input from a user-operable switch coupled to said source telecommunications device.

36. (Presently Added) The method as recited in Claim 29 wherein said scanning includes scanning in a direction selected from first and second directions along said card and said orientation is selected from first and second orientations corresponding to said first and second directions, respectively.

37. (Presently Added) The method as recited in Claim 29 wherein said status of said source telecommunications device is a ready status of a source telephone.

38. (Presently Added) The method as recited in Claim 29 wherein said status of said source telecommunications device is a ready status of a source facsimile device.

39. (Presently Added) A method of initiating a telecommunications session at a source telecommunications device, comprising:

reading information having an orientation on a card;

parsing said information;

extracting a telephone number from said information;

determining whether to use said telephone number to initiate faxing or phoning based on at least one of said orientation and a status of said source telecommunications device; and

transmitting a signal containing said telephone number to said source telecommunications device thereby initiating a telecommunications session.

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40. (Presently Added) The method as recited in Claim 39 wherein said scanning includes scanning in a direction selected from first and second directions along said card and said orientation is selected from first and second orientations corresponding to said first and second directions, respectively.

41. (Presently Added) The method as recited in Claim 39 wherein said status of said source telecommunications device is selected from a ready status of a source telephone and a ready status of a source facsimile device.
